



Membership Application

To join the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities** and the **World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities**

- If you have questions while completing this form, please email livable@aarp.org
- If you need additional space for answering the questions you may add an additional sheet of paper

Section 1: COMMUNITY DETAILS

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE: 5/31/2019

NAME OF THE COMMUNITY: Ocala/Marion County

STATE: Florida

POPULATION SIZE: 354,353

PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS ABOVE THE AGE OF 60: 36.1%

NAME AND TITLE OF THE ELECTED OFFICIAL SIGNING THE OFFICIAL COMMITMENT: Mayor Kent Guinn, City of Ocala and Commissioner Michelle Stone, Marion County Board of Commissioners

OFFICE ADDRESS OF THE SIGNER: Mayor- 110 SE Watula Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471; Commissioner-601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471

Section 2: COMMUNITY CONTACT for the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities

- The community contact is the local staff member or volunteer who is primarily responsible for carrying out the community-level work — it is not the responsible AARP staff member.

[Redacted contact information]

Please describe the named person's role in the city or community's age-friendly initiative:

Jennifer Martinez will serve as the lead of the Ocala/Marion County Age-Friendly Initiative. Martinez has been recognized by the Ocala/ Marion County Chamber of Commerce in 2011 for being a community advocate and convener. In her role as the Executive Director of the Lead Agency in Marion County for Elder Affairs, Marion Senior Services (MSS) is primed to lead this project. The agency's leadership has been able to unite all business sectors to address the community's needs together.

The person named above agrees to be subscribed to the [AARP Livable Communities Weekly e-Newsletter](#), which is one of the primary ways we share useful news and resources. To add additional subscribers, type their names and email addresses into below. Once this application is processed, a subscription confirmation message will be sent so the individual can confirm that they want to subscribe. To subscribe today, follow the link above or visit AARP.org/Livable-Subscribe.

Click here to enter text.

Section 3: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, ENGAGEMENTS and COLLABORATIONS

1) Please provide a brief summary of the community policies, programs and services that are targeted toward older people and how the community plans to become more age-friendly.

MSS has strong, established partnerships with all levels of local government, law-enforcement and fire rescue, health institutions and our Health Department, non-profits and business leaders. Many leaders have already volunteered to serve on the Advisory Board and are eager to contribute. Ocala/Marion County has the best of everything. Located in the heart of the Sunshine State, this vibrant city is a gateway to all of Florida’s best features. Both our City and County Leadership are dedicated to working in unison making our community a prosperous place for all to live, work and play. We are a community of more than 355,000 neighbors that enjoy where we live and work. From this, more than 200,000 workers comprise our regional workforce, providing a steady supply of skilled employees for a growing number of professional, manufacturing, healthcare, distribution and other industry sectors. In addition to our excellent workforce, you will be pleased to find thousands of acres of national forest, many miles of recreational trails and waterways, beautiful horse farms and an amazing countryside that is not only unique to Florida but a one-of-a-kind environment in the Southeast.

2) How will the community engage and involve older people in the process of becoming a more age-friendly?

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County and WellFlorida Council, the local health planning council, have invited all residents to participate in the community health needs assessment survey between Thursday, January 24, 2019 and Tuesday, April 30, 2019. Community leaders will use these answers construct our action plan and to build a healthier community for all. Both the City and the County have invested more resources in building programs to engage our older populations in activites that promote physical and mental well-being.

3) Briefly describe the mechanisms the community has or is planning to put in place to facilitate collaborative planning and implementation between different agencies and departments.

Both the City of Ocala and Marion County are proud to offer a wide range of programs, memberships and events for the whole family, including our greater generations. For the past two years, MSS has held Leadership Summits to discuss our local challenges and the opportunities that will be discovered.

Section 4: NETWORK MEMBERSHIP

- Your answers to the following questions will help us complete your membership in the global age-friendly network and better enable us to understand how to support the network.

4) How do you hope to contribute to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Ocala/Marion County is nationally recognized for its top assets, such as affordable housing and lifestyle. Designations include:- Fifth best place to live in America.- 11th most livable small city (Ocala).- Top 50 best small metropolitan areas.- America's top 100 places to live. Ocala/Marion County recognizes the importance of collaboration and how our leadership has to work across institutional boundaries to engage our citizens, business leaders and community in a way that is positive, forward thinking and results in effective decision making for everyone.

5) What motivated your community to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities?

Ocala/Marion County celebrates our greater generations and understands the importance of seniors to our local economy. Leadership also acknowledges we have a community that thrives on remaining active and engages, at every age. Ocala/Marion County has the best of everything. Located in the heart of the Sunshine State, this vibrant city is a gateway to all of Florida's best features. Both our City and County Leadership are dedicated to working in unison making our community a prosperous place for all to live, work and play. We are a community of more than 355,000 neighbors that enjoy where we live and work. From this, more than 200,000 workers comprise our regional workforce, providing a steady supply of skilled employees for a growing number of professional, manufacturing, healthcare, distribution and other industry sectors. In addition to our excellent workforce, you will be pleased to find thousands of acres of national forest, many miles of recreational trails and waterways, beautiful horse farms and an amazing countryside that is not only unique to Florida but a one-of-a-kind environment in the Southeast.

Click here to add a link to where we can find your logo. Or, send a JPEG, PDF or PNG of your logo by email attachment to livable@aarp.org.

6) Provide a digital file or link of a logo or other image that represents your community and for which you have reprint rights. The image resolution should be at least 72 dpi. As an example of an image, here's ours:

